

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 15-19 and 21-24 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-10 were previously canceled. By this Amendment claims 15, 16, 18 and 21-24 are amended; claims 11-14 and 20 are canceled; and claims 25-28 are added.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indications in numbered paragraph 5, page 5 of the Office Action, that claims 16-19 and 21-24 contain allowable subject matter. In response, claims 16, 18 and 21-24 are amended to incorporate the respective base claim and intervening claims, if any, to place the allowable claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 11-14 and 20 are canceled. Certain of the canceled subject matters have been restated as claims 25-28, which depend from the respective one of independent claims 21 and 22.

In numbered paragraph 2, page 2 of the Office Action, independent claim 11, along with various dependent claims, is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. 2004/0102063 (Yin et al.). In numbered paragraph 4, page 5 of the Office Action, dependent claim 14 is rejected as being unpatentable over the Yin et al. publication. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have disclosed an electrical contact arrangement, comprising a first electrically conductive contact pad, a second electrically conductive contact pad, and an electrically conductive connection between the first and second contact pads. The two contact pads can be arranged opposite each other, the connection being an electrical pressure contact spring clamped of electrically conductive wire between the two contact pads. For this exemplary configuration, the electrical pressure

contact spring comprises a first contacting region (31) for contacting a first electrically conductive contact pad (1), a rounded contact tip (31) being arranged in the first contacting region for contacting the contact pad, the contact tip (31) having an outer radius (R) which corresponds to one to three times the thickness of the wire (a), a second contacting region (32) for contacting a second electrically conductive contact pad (2), and a compressing region (33), with at least one wire curvature, arranged between the first contacting region (31) and the second contacting region (32), a straight piece of wire (34) extending from the compressing region (33) and finishing in the contact tip (31) running in the direction of the spring force (F). The wire can be bent in the first contacting region, the wire bend forming the contact tip (31). Such an exemplary contact arrangement comprises means by which the contact tip of the pressure contact spring is prevented from penetrating through the first contact pad when it penetrates into said first contact pad (e.g., page 4, lines 19-22).

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by claim 15, which recites an electrical contact arrangement, including, among other features, an electrical pressure contact spring comprising a first contacting region for contacting a first electrically conductive contact pad, a rounded contact tip being arranged in the first contacting region for contacting the contact pad, wherein a wire is bent in the first contacting region, and wherein this wire bend forms the contact tip, wherein the contact arrangement comprises means by which the contact tip of the pressure contact spring is prevented from penetrating through the first contact pad when it penetrates into said first contact pad.

The Yin et al. publication discloses an electrical connector comprising a housing 10 and terminals 11. The Yin et al. patent discloses that a terminal 11 has a contact tip 114 for point contact with a contact 20 of a circuit board 2 (paragraph 0023]). However, the disclosure is for "a point contact without producing a sliding friction" (paragraph [0023]). The Yin et al. publication would not have taught or suggested a contact arrangement comprising means by which the contact tip of the pressure contact spring is prevented from penetrating through the first contact pad when it penetrates into said first contact pad, as recited in claim 15.

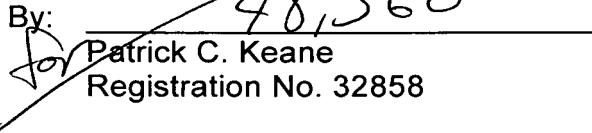
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants' independent claim 15 is allowable. Claims 11-14 and 20 are canceled. The remaining claims which depend from independent claim 15 recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By: 

Patrick C. Keane
Registration No. 32858

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620